



## Summer Bulletin July 2025

### Programme

As a reminder the meetings for the summer are included below.

- We have arranged a visit to the Sky Garden in Wick. On Tuesday 15 July at 2.00pm we will be given a guided tour of the fields where they grow the 'green roof' mats, which we hope will be in full flower. Full details have been sent to members by email, but if you missed them, contact Gill and she will let you know more.
- Gill is happy to lead a walk for members in the summer; please let us know if you would like this to be arranged.
- Battle Festival Weekend. 1-3 August. As usual we will put up our banners and display our booklets and information in a gazebo on Crown Meadow. If you are able to help us to look after the display over the weekend, which this year starts on the Friday afternoon, we are looking for volunteers to join the rota. If you can spare an hour or two, we would be very grateful, so that other members can then spend time enjoying some of the activities taking place. Please contact Brian Chilver 01386 443173 or 07906 648664 or Gill 07801 846049.

### New website

Please take a look at our revamped website. Mick Hurst of Abbeygate Media has managed to fit it in amongst all of his other efforts to improve Evesham. At time of writing, it is not quite complete, but significant progress has been made. If you have any comments/suggestions please let us know, as there is still time to make it better.

**Your Civic Society on Social media** <https://www.facebook.com/EveshamCivic>

We continue to use our Facebook page to promote our programme of events and activities by us or others that are trying to improve our town. The celebration of this year's Civic Day was a garden



party attended by the Mayor and his consort and a variety of members and friends. Leading up to Civic Day, Paula posted 7 items, one a day, on the role of Civic Societies and on ours in particular. The details of these posts are available to download from the website; they have been gathered together into a single document.

### The Almonry Museum refurbishment: fundraising

Brian Chilver has decided that his single-handed efforts in selling the Lesley Brockbank prints of the Almonry will end this month. We will let you know the final total raised for the Almonry museum refurbishment fund. Our efforts as a society will now move over to selling notecards and Christmas cards, now available. Each pack contains 5 cards, to be sold for £4. We are sharing this initiative with the Evesham Historical Society; we each have 50 packs of notelets and 100 packs of Christmas cards to sell. When we have sold them, this will add another £600 to the fund. Please support us.



### Medieval Market weekend



Well done and thank you to Paula for setting up a 'Guess the number of buttons in a jar' competition, entry fee £1 for 3 guesses. It raised £46 which is now in our account to help towards the costs of our various talks and activities. We also provided some 'Spot the difference' sheets for the children, to engage them so that we could talk to the parents about VECS. The stand was busy this year and many of our membership leaflets were given out; will this lead to any new members? We will have to wait and see.



As well as supporting VECS, our members Adrian, Paula and Alan Chambers helped with the organisation of the whole weekend, with Adrian and Alan excelling at litter collection.

**Evesham Place Board** <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/business/evesham-place-board>

The Board has announced that Tom Tarver has stood down as the Chair and Phil Maclean, Marketing Director at The Valley, employed by Eagle One has replaced him.

There is still no definite news on the future of the Riverside Shopping Centre, Town Hall and the Public Hall.

Gill, Paula and Wendy met with Claire Edwards (the maternity replacement for Caroline) and looked at all of the shop fronts on Bridge Street, High Street and Port Street, to prepare a list of those to first be targeted with the offer of funding to change the signage to better fit in with the Conservation Area or Listed Building status. A decision on the amount of funding to be awarded to this scheme is to be made at the forthcoming Board meeting.

### Planning and Enforcement

VECS has made submissions to Wychavon District Council on a number of significant planning applications this year. Since the last newsletter we have actively engaged with both the applicant and local councillors and the Planning Department concerning the proposed signs for the UK Storage Unit on Swan Lane. The signs as applied for are typical of those used on business park premises, out of town, and are not appropriate on a building in a medieval town centre adjacent to the Conservation Area. Councillor Craig Reeves drew up a suggested alternative approach, as shown in the image below. Discussions are still underway, so no outcome can yet be reported.



We have also reported a couple of inappropriate developments to the Enforcement Team to investigate, including the new shop front at 6 Waterside.

## Outing to Morton Hall Gardens



A group of members and friends visited the gardens and were given a guided tour by the garden owner and instigator of the changes and current layout. This was followed by a cream tea in the orangery. An excellent afternoon out and a garden well worth visiting (only half an hour away by car) if you haven't been before.

## Men in Sheds



Following a call for help, the volunteers at Men in Sheds made up the frame and support for the banner that is displayed in the front garden of the Almonry. It informs us of the sponsors of the building restoration work; the Arts Council and UK Government. The display is a requirement of the funding authorities that their contribution is advertised.

## And Finally

**Empty Houses:** Zoe Stephens reports that litter-picking is an ideal opportunity for looking closely at houses without causing people to think there's suspicious behaviour happening!

*I begin to notice that things such as closed curtains have the same folds, they haven't been opened since the last time. Objects outside are still in the same place. I don't mean garden ornaments. Hedges and grass in need of a trim. A general air of emptiness.*

*To report an empty house, follow this link: <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/housing/empty-homes>. It comes up with: a page of reasons why they want the reports, such as shortage of housing so they can be brought back into use and if in bad condition, not become targets for fly-tipping, drug use, anti-social behaviour and the like. Click on 'report an empty house' and it comes up with a form to fill in. You get an acknowledgement that it has been received.*

*Wychavon District Council is actively working to bring empty homes back into use. They offer free guidance and assistance to owners of empty properties, including help with identifying needed repairs and advertising them on their social letting scheme. The council also provides Empty Homes Assistance, offering up to £15,000 for essential works*